



HJ0021HAM001

LRB095 09784 RLC 33794 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 21

2 AMENDMENT NO. ____ . Amend House Joint Resolution 21 by
3 replacing lines 2 through 21 on page 1, and all of pages 2, 3,
4 and 4 with the following:

5 "WHEREAS, Article I, Section 11 of the Illinois
6 Constitution states "All penalties shall be determined both
7 according to the seriousness of the offense AND WITH THE
8 OBJECTIVE OF RESTORING THE OFFENDER TO USEFUL CITIZENSHIP"
9 (emphasis added); and

10 WHEREAS, Illinois is one of only 11 states that has life
11 without parole sentences and one of only 6 states where all
12 life sentences are without parole; and

13 WHEREAS, Thirty years ago only a handful of prisoners in
14 Illinois served sentences longer than 30 years; this year
15 approximately 4,000 Illinois prisoners have sentences of 30
16 years or more, including C number prisoners, amounting to about

1 10% of all Illinois prisoners; and

2 WHEREAS, In Illinois at least 500 people each year are
3 sentenced as lifers or long-term prisoners; and

4 WHEREAS, With the growth of truth in sentencing laws and
5 increased use of life without parole sentences, the number of
6 long-term prisoners will grow exponentially; and

7 WHEREAS, It costs at least one million dollars to confine a
8 person in prison for 30 years; and

9 WHEREAS, It is estimated that close to half of those lifers
10 and long-term prisoners will never be released from prison if
11 current policies stay in place; and

12 WHEREAS, The recidivism rate for long termers is the lowest
13 of any group of prisoners; and

14 WHEREAS, A large number of lifers and long-term prisoners
15 are sentenced under the accountability theory and not for the
16 actual commission of the crime, and some are first time
17 offenders; and

18 WHEREAS, Community crime prevention programs, not harsher
19 prison sentences are responsible for the decline in crime

1 rates; and

2 WHEREAS, Numerous innocent people have been wrongly
3 convicted in Illinois; and

4 WHEREAS, Many countries no longer impose sentences of life
5 without parole; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
7 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
8 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created the Long-Term
9 Prisoners Study Committee, hereinafter referred to as the
10 Committee, consisting of 17 members appointed as follows:

11 (1) Three members appointed by the President of the Senate;

12 (2) Two members appointed by the Minority Leader of the
13 Senate;

14 (3) Three members appointed by the Speaker of the House of
15 Representatives;

16 (4) Two members appointed by the Minority Leader of the
17 House of Representatives;

18 (5) One member appointed by the Attorney General;

19 (6) One member appointed by the Governor;

20 (7) One member appointed by the Cook County State's
21 Attorney;

22 (8) One member appointed by the Office of the Cook County
23 Public Defender;

1 (9) One member appointed by the Office of the State
2 Appellate Defender;

3 (10) One member appointed by the Office of the State's
4 Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor; and

5 (11) One member appointed by the Director of Corrections;
6 and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Department of Corrections shall provide
8 staff and administrative support to the Committee; and be it
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That the Committee shall study and examine issues
11 related to prisoners sentenced to life without parole and
12 prisoners sentenced to terms in excess of 30 years; and be it
13 further

14 RESOLVED, That the Committee in its deliberations shall
15 always give priority to public safety and the best use of State
16 funds; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Committee shall hold public hearings and
18 present a report of its findings and recommendations to the
19 95th General Assembly before December 31, 2007."